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United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

One year into the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 and with the Sustainable Development Goals just adopted, in particular Goal 7, on energy, 2015 provides a historical opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen their collective approach to energy. The present report describes efforts undertaken to coordinate the activities of the Decade within the United Nations system and the institutional and accountability arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, as requested in resolution 69/225. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All coordinates activities related to the Decade on behalf of the Secretary-General and has facilitated discussions related to the institutional arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The report underlines the need for enhanced international cooperation and strengthened United Nations system coherence on energy in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7.

* The present report was submitted late owing to the need for internal consultations.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/225, in which the Assembly noted the launch of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All as part of the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum and the initial two-year focus on energy for women, children and health. It further encouraged the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives defined in the global plan of action for the Decade. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the activities carried out to mark the Decade, related activities within the United Nations system and the long-term institutional arrangements and accountability arrangements to all stakeholders of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative for submission to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

II. The new agenda for transformation: energy in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2. The year 2015 offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people around the world to end poverty and transform the world to better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting the environment, ensuring peace and realizing respect for human rights. In the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, Member States have set out an ambitious, transformational plan of action for people, the planet, prosperity, partnerships and peace. At its core lie 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets, representing a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred universal agenda.

3. Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity and the environment, which allow the world to thrive. Energy is a core interest for all countries of the world and is inextricably linked to many of the global challenges that they face. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully recognizes the critical importance of energy for sustainable development by establishing a goal and targets on energy (see box). Sustainable Development Goal 7 represents a watershed in global efforts towards ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It sets out a new global energy agenda accepted by and applicable to all, developed and developing countries alike. The Goal and targets reflect the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development through the focus on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

4. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its targets will create significant synergies and simultaneously advance many other Sustainable Development Goals, including the Goals on poverty eradication, food security, clean water and sanitation, health, education, economic growth and the empowerment of youth and women, while combating climate change. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is fundamental to human development and a necessary investment in the collective future.

5. A shift towards more efficient and renewable energy solutions is essential for addressing climate change and sustainable development challenges. Action to achieve this global energy goal must contribute to limiting the increase in the average global temperature to below 2°C in the long run. Greenhouse gas emissions from the supply and use of energy are changing the Earth's climate. Climate change threatens food and water security for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

6. The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development require a global partnership to ensure its full implementation. Its ambition must be matched by strong political will and scaled-up action on all fronts by all stakeholders.

III. Activities and momentum in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All

7. Momentum is growing. In many regions and countries, the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All has played a catalytic role in fostering conversations on energy and has been recognized in explicit declarations and commitments as a political priority and framework for action.

8. To mark the second year in the Decade, the second Sustainable Energy for All Forum, on the theme "Financing sustainable energy for all", was held in May 2015, with over 1,500 leaders, including more than 30 ministers, from all stakeholder

groups gathered at Headquarters. The Forum featured the first-ever Global Energy Ministerial Dialogue and the launch of the second Global Tracking Framework and the global campaign on energy for women and children's health.

9. Member States have enhanced this momentum through a series of resolutions. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014, produced the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (see resolution 69/15, annex) and declared that the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, complemented by international commitments, provides a useful framework.

10. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (see resolution 69/313, annex), adopted in 2015, Member States welcomed the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative as a useful framework, including its regional hubs, and the development of action agendas and investment prospectuses at the country level. The Agenda also called for action on the recommendations of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which had the potential to raise over $100 billion in annual investments by 2020 through market-based initiatives, partnerships and the leveraging of development banks.

11. Political recognition of the importance of energy is also growing. The ministers of energy of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum met in Beijing in 2014 and adopted the document entitled "Beijing declaration — joining hands towards sustainable energy development in the Asia-Pacific region", in which they reaffirmed the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

12. In 2015, the Group of 20 convened its first meeting of ministers of energy in Turkey and adopted the document entitled "G20 energy access action plan: voluntary collaboration on energy access", which was developed in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its partners.

13. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative has been entrusted to work with the International Renewable Energy Agency and other partners, under the auspices of the French presidency of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris in 2015, to organize a thematic energy day in the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda.

14. Stakeholders, including Governments, business, civil society and international organizations, have also played a significant role in the build-up of action and momentum in support of the Decade.

15. Such engagements have come from all regions and a myriad of platforms, including but not limited to: the Vienna Energy Forum; the Vibrant Gujarat Summit; the World Future Energy Summit held in Abu Dhabi; the Clean Energy Ministerial; the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit; the Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting held in Nadi, Fiji; the Bloomberg Future of Energy Summit held in New York; the annual meetings of the African Development Bank held in Kigali and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; the Asia Clean Energy Forum held in Manila; the twentieth Commonwealth Games, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity-Building in the Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou, Benin; the Regional Meeting of Sustainable Energy for All in Latin America and the

Caribbean, held in Santiago; the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna; the first Conference on Energy for Development of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries in Estoril, Portugal; World Water Week, held in Stockholm; the Meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Committees on Energy and Water Resources, held in Amman; and Regional Student Energy Summits across the world. Further activities and events are planned for 2015 in many places, including Japan and Kenya.

16. In 2015, the International Renewable Energy Conference, held in South Africa, stressed the importance of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the International Renewable Energy Agency as the renewable energy hub within the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the Sustainable Energy for All Africa Hub, which is hosted at the African Development Bank in partnership with the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

17. Within the United Nations system, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All has spearheaded the overall coordination and organization of the activities for the Decade, supported by UN-Energy, the wider United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, as reported in document A/68/309. The Special Representative has done so in response to resolution 68/210, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, from extrabudgetary resources.

18. UN-Energy has played an instrumental role in enhancing coherence across the United Nations system around the goal and objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. In 2014, UN-Energy published a report summarizing all current and future activities by UN-Energy member organizations in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.[1] In 2015, UN-Energy, in cooperation with its member organizations and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, is conducting regional workshops on capacity development for mainstreaming the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators into national statistical programmes.

19. The regional commissions, together with the Government of Tunisia and in collaboration with UN-Energy, convened the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Hammamet, Tunisia, in 2014, during which the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions reiterated that the United Nations is working to help Member States to advance universal energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy in line with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

IV. Institutional and accountability arrangements for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative

20. The Secretary-General launched the Sustainable Energy for All initiative in 2011, in response to resolution 65/151, in which the General Assembly declared

[1] Available from www.un-energy.org/publications/13123-activities-un-energy-members-for-the-decade-report.

2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The initiative seeks to mobilize action by all stakeholders in support of a major global transformation of energy systems through the achievement of three major objectives: (a) ensuring universal access to modern energy services; (b) doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and (c) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

21. The Secretary-General established an Advisory Board for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank Group, which includes distinguished global leaders from Governments, business and civil society. Together with the initiative's Executive Committee, the Advisory Board provides strategic advice to the initiative.[2]

22. As Member States were informed in document A/69/395 and through informal briefings,[3] the Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All has been working towards putting in place, in the course of 2015, long-term institutional structures for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the establishment of an international not-for-profit organization by actors external to the United Nations. Appropriate arrangements are also being made to ensure continued support within the United Nations to issues related to sustainable energy.

A. Sustainable Energy for All Partnership

23. In 2014, the Executive Committee of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative set up an internal working group composed of actors external to the United Nations system, which delivered recommendations for the long-term institutional arrangements for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative early in 2015.[4] The recommendations included the establishment, by actors external to the United Nations, of an international not-for-profit organization, the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, and an overview of its role in facilitating the activities of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The recommendations were welcomed by the Advisory Board in May 2015.

24. To lead this not-for-profit organization, a selection committee set up by the Executive Committee and composed of actors external to the United Nations system announced on 3 September 2015 the selection of Rachel Kyte (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as its first Chief Executive Officer.

25. Multi-stakeholder partnerships external to the United Nations are currently establishing a structure for the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, which is to be headquartered in Austria. This includes the establishment of its membership and its own governing board.

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[2] More information is available from www.se4all.org/about-us/advisory-board/ and www.se4all.org/about-us/executive-committee/.

[3] Available from www.un.org/sg/dsg/statements/index.asp?nid=615.

[4] Available from www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SE4All-AB201526.pdf.

B. United Nations system support to achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative

26. The United Nations will continue to engage in activities in support of the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

27. First, the Advisory Board will continue to be co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank Group and, in coordination with the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, will provide overall advice to the initiative. The Government of India has generously offered to host the next Advisory Board meeting, to be held in 2016.

28. Second, the United Nations and the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership will collaborate and coordinate efforts. The terms of that collaboration will be set out in a relationship agreement to be concluded by both organizations.

29. Third, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All will spearhead the United Nations system's efforts. The Special Representative will help the Secretary-General to convene multi-stakeholder meetings, facilitate dialogues, conduct advocacy and outreach and mobilize resources in support of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

30. On 3 September 2015, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Ms. Kyte as his Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All. The appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership as the Special Representative will ensure close institutional synergies with the Partnership. These new institutional arrangements will ensure that the United Nations remains closely involved with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative while affording it the institutional room to thrive as a multi-stakeholder partnership.

31. The Special Representative will ensure that, pursuant to and in accordance with guidelines to be prepared by the Ethics Office in consultation with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, no conflicts of interest shall arise between the functions of the Special Representative and those of the Chief Executive Officer and that the two roles shall be and shall remain clearly separated. In that respect, the Special Representative shall be fully and solely accountable to the Secretary-General and represent only the Secretary-General when acting in this capacity.

32. Through the appointment of the Special Representative, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its activities will continue to be mainstreamed in the United Nations system and its intergovernmental processes. The Special Representative will be supported substantively and logistically by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in coordination with all relevant United Nations offices, funds, programmes and agencies.

33. The multi-partner trust fund for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, administered by UNDP, will continue to support the relevant activities of the United Nations system, including those undertaken by the Special Representative with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through extrabudgetary resources.[5]

[5] Information on the multi-partner trust fund for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative is available from http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SEA00.

C. Harnessing the capacity of existing institutions: thematic and regional hubs for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative

34. In addition to the establishment of the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership and in order to effectively support and strengthen partnerships, a strong network of thematic and regional hubs for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative has been established within existing institutions. The hubs offer best practices and leadership capacities in their respective areas in order to help countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and other relevant objectives. To date, these hubs include:

(a) An Africa hub in the African Development Bank, with the support of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and UNDP;

(b) An Asia-Pacific hub in the Asian Development Bank, with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UNDP;

(c) A Europe-Central Asia-Mediterranean hub in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

(d) A Latin America and the Caribbean hub in the Inter-American Development Bank, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNDP;

(e) A renewable energy hub in the International Renewable Energy Agency;

(f) An energy efficiency hub in the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, with the support of the Government of Denmark, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Technical University of Denmark;

(g) An energy efficiency facilitation hub in the Energy Conservation Center of Japan;

(h) A knowledge management hub in the World Bank;

(i) A capacity-building hub in The Energy and Resources Institute.

D. Accountability arrangements

35. The accountability arrangements for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative will continue to be strengthened. First, the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework will report on the overall progress towards the objectives of the initiative on a biennial basis. Second, progress on individual voluntary commitments to the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All will be reported regularly on the basis of the conceptual framework presented by its accountability framework. Third, the Advisory Board will continue to provide overall advice and will publicly share its deliberations. Fourth, the up-to-date status of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the initiative is made publicly available through its website. The Special Representative will continue to be the focal point for ensuring that these arrangements are facilitated effectively.

36. The Secretary-General will report on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All as requested by the General Assembly. The Special Representative will ensure that the activities under the Decade, including those related to the

Sustainable Energy for All initiative, are disseminated through such reports and through regular briefings to Member States.

37. Pursuant to the relationship agreement to be concluded between the United Nations and the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, the Special Representative will also work to ensure that the activities of the United Nations and the Partnership are aligned with the broader objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and carried out in support of the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal on energy.

V. Accelerating actions in support of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the Decade: advocacy, stakeholder mobilization, implementation, monitoring and system-wide coordination

A. Tracking progress

38. The Sustainable Development Goal on energy in all aspects of energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy is fully attainable by 2030, as efforts to do so can build on many ongoing activities and experiences, including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the activities of the Decade. With a concerted effort to scale up successful models, existing technologies, business models and regulatory best practices, substantial progress can be achieved. Accelerated innovation and new technologies will bring further advances. Investments for clean energy now amount to hundreds of billions of dollars annually in both developed and developing countries.

39. Yet much more remains to be done to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7. With a set of global indicators on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy covering over 180 countries, the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework[6] shows where progress is made and where challenges remain. The work is led by the World Bank and the International Energy Agency, supported by UN-Energy and 20 other organizations. It provides concrete inputs for the ongoing work led by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

40. With respect to energy access, there have been significant advances on access to electricity. In 2012, access to electricity rose to 85 per cent of the global population, up from 76 per cent in 1990. The number of people without access to electricity in 2012 was 1.1 billion. The rate of electrification in urban areas was 96 per cent, while in rural areas it was 72 per cent. During the period 2010-2012, an additional 222 million people around the world, mainly in urban areas, gained access to electricity for the first time, well ahead of the 138 million global population increase. India led the progress, with 55 million people in the country gaining access over that period. Challenges remain, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where the rates of access to electricity remain low, at 35 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively, in 2012.

41. Access to clean cooking solutions, by contrast, continues to fall behind population growth, leading to negligible progress overall. Overall, the global access

[6] Available from www.se4all.org/tracking-progress/.

deficit barely changed from the initial figure of 2.9 billion people, most of whom were concentrated in rural areas of Africa and Asia. The annual growth in access to non-solid fuels during the period 2010-2012 was negative, decreasing by 0.1 per cent per year, which is comparable to the rate registered during the period 2000-2010 and woefully short of the 1.7 per cent target growth rate per year required to reach universal access by 2030. This means that only 125 million additional people — mainly in urban areas — gained access for the first time to non-solid fuels, which represents a failure to keep pace with the 138 million population increase that took place over the same period.

42. On energy efficiency, progress in improving energy efficiency over the period 2010-2012 was substantial. Primary energy intensity — the global proxy for energy efficiency — improved by more than 1.7 per cent a year over the period, considerably more than it had in the period 1990-2010. Still, the rate of improvement is two thirds of the pace needed to reach the target of an average annual 2.6 per cent improvement between 2010 and 2030, which is necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

43. The growth in the use of renewable energy has continued to accelerate in recent years. The share of renewable energy in the global total final energy consumption grew from 17.8 per cent in 2010 to 18.1 per cent in 2012. Modern renewables, which exclude solid biofuels used for traditional purposes, grew even more rapidly, at a rate of 4 per cent per year. To put that in context, an annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent would be required to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix with modern renewables. During the period 2010-2012, modern renewable energy power generation accounted for half of all power generation capacity additions globally. East Asia, in particular China, led this rapid increase. Declining technology costs have helped to foster growth. For example, solar photovoltaic module prices were halved between 2010 and 2012.

44. Today's investment flows of $400 billion a year in support of the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and its targets would need to triple to over $1 trillion annually to make meaningful progress towards achieving that Goal.

45. According to the International Energy Agency, a fivefold increase in capital would be needed to achieve universal access to electricity — from $9 billion of actual investment in 2010 to an annual $45 billion until 2030. For modern cooking solutions, the International Energy Agency estimates that a 44-fold increase in capital is required — from $0.1 billion in 2010 to $4.4 billion annually until 2030 — to achieve universal access to clean cooking solutions.

46. Much greater resources will be required for energy efficiency and renewable energy. To double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, a quadrupling of current energy efficiency investment is needed — from approximately $130 billion in 2012 to an annual average of $560 billion until 2030. According to the report of the International Renewable Energy Agency entitled "REmap 2030 — a renewable energy road map", annual investments in renewable energy will have to be in the order of $650 billion, or 2.5 times more than the investment volume in 2012, in order to double the share of renewables globally.

47. Significant opportunities exist to catalyse additional finance and investment. For example, the Finance Committee of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative's Advisory Board identified, in its 2015 report, four broad investment themes that

could help to mobilize $120 billion in incremental annual investment by 2020.[7] These include green-bond market development, structures that use development finance institutions' de-risking instruments to mobilize private capital, insurance products that focus on removing specific risks, and aggregation structures that focus on bundling and pooling approaches for small-scale opportunities.

48. Unlocking existing opportunities requires an investment in capacity-building and the transfer of state-of-the-art knowledge and technologies to countries with less capacity to adopt sustainable energy solutions. Access to clean technologies remains constrained by existing regulations and incentives in many places, by the technical and commercial capacity of institutions and companies, and by a shortage of relevant skills.

49. The nexus between energy and other essential areas of development, such as water, food, health and gender, also presents numerous opportunities that can be harnessed for more holistic decision-making. For example, renewable energy can be either water-efficient or water-intensive. Health gains are achieved from sustainable energy services in community health clinics through cost-effective and life-saving interventions. Street lighting may increase women's mobility by improving security. Identifying these linkages at an early stage can help to target synergies and pre-empt potential tensions.

B. Mobilizing, scaling up and accelerating actions

50. The establishment of Sustainable Development Goal 7 provides a unique opportunity to align and scale up many ongoing efforts and spark new action. Ongoing efforts undertaken within the existing frameworks, such as the Decade and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, must be brought fully into alignment with Goal 7. When taken together, they collectively provide a solid basis for an accelerated implementation of the Goal.

51. To this end, the Special Representative will lead the United Nations advocacy and outreach efforts inside and outside the United Nations system in the area of energy, including those related to the implementation, review and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 7, with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

52. All stakeholders — businesses, Governments, multilateral organizations and civil society — must take action. Each can utilize its own strengths and interests, including by improving policies and institutional capacity; supporting technological and value chain innovation; ensuring that public resources are used to maximize the flow of private investment; and stimulating end user efficiency through education and new delivery models. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative is the vehicle to bring these different stakeholders together.

53. The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All represents a global advocacy and outreach platform to enhance momentum in this area. Member States have called for the rapid implementation of the global plan of action for the Decade

[7] Available from www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SE4All-Advisory-Board-Finance-Committee-Report.pdf.

and its strategic objectives (see resolution 69/225), building on the Global Action Agenda of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

54. The Sustainable Energy for All Forum offers a multi-stakeholder, global mobilization platform for sharing lessons and mobilizing commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 7. The first Forum, held in 2014, launched the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. The second Forum, held in 2015, was convened under the overall theme "Financing sustainable energy for all" and featured the first-ever meeting of global energy ministers.

55. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative represents a global implementation framework in support of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the global plan of action for the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. Its thousands of multi-stakeholder partnerships from all regions and sectors are already catalysing major new efforts and investments towards enhancing energy access, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy on the ground. The key achievements of the initiative to date include:

(a) Action at the country level: over 100 countries, including 85 developing countries, have thus far joined the Sustainable Energy for All initiative as partners. In over 30 countries, partners are currently engaged in the development of national action agendas and investment prospectuses. The initiative's regional and thematic hubs are playing an instrumental role in this;

(b) Commitments towards universal access to modern energy services: the European Commission and individual European countries are committed in support of sustainable energy for all, including through such initiatives as the Electrification Finance Initiative, to support developing countries in their efforts to reduce energy poverty by more than half a billion people within two decades. Sustainable Energy for All has also signed an aide-memoire on cooperation with Power Africa, an initiative of the United States of America that aims to provide energy access to some 300 million people. New commitments continue to be made, while others are being scaled up;

(c) Promoting energy efficiency: at the Climate Summit, held in 2014, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative launched the global energy efficiency accelerator platform, a unique public-private platform for enhancing energy efficiency, including in appliances, buildings, district energy, industry, lighting and transportation. The platform is an important element of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda whose aim is to launch the accelerator platform as the largest global platform on energy efficiency during the Energy Day to be organized at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in 2015 in Paris;

(d) Promoting renewable energy: the International Renewable Energy Agency has launched the Small Island Developing States Lighthouses initiative and the Africa Clean Energy Corridor Initiative, which will provide significant assistance for investments in renewable energy in these regions. The Agency, as the renewable energy hub for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, has also launched the report entitled "REmap 2030 — a renewable energy road map", a road map to doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. The REmap project is being rolled out at the country level;

(e) Catalysing investment: the Finance Committee of the initiative's Advisory Board, through work led by the Brazilian Development Bank, the Bank of

America and the World Bank, identified ways to mobilize an additional $120 billion a year by 2020 in sustainable energy investments. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development called upon all stakeholders to take action in this regard;

(f) Scaling up public and private partnerships: 50 high-impact opportunities have been identified to date. Six of these opportunities are currently being operationalized, namely clean energy mini-grids; the phasing out of gas flaring; energy and women's health; the universal adoption of clean cooking solutions; sustainable bioenergy; and the water-energy-food nexus. A framework has been developed for formalizing the scope, roles, accountabilities and monitoring and evaluation of the high-impact opportunities;

(g) Strengthening civil society networks: the Energy Access Practitioner Network, led by the United Nations Foundation, has more than 2,000 members from non-governmental organizations, private sector groups and social enterprises and delivers energy services in 170 countries.

56. The Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework is a global data monitoring system designed to support the tracking of progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its targets in an accountable and transparent manner. The World Bank and the International Energy Agency lead the work, supported by UN-Energy and 20 other organizations.

57. UN-Energy has continued to implement its main objectives of enhancing coherence among ongoing energy efforts and promoting common paths that accelerate the achievement of global energy goals. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All will continue to work with and be supported by UN-Energy to strengthen synergies across the system. During 2014 and 2015, UN-Energy has played a key role in coordinating the Technical Support Team's efforts to define an ambitious, stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on energy and corresponding energy targets for the post-2015 development agenda. UN-Energy is now coordinating the efforts by international organizations to define the energy indicators that will support the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and its targets, as contained in the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". In 2014, UN-Energy published a report summarizing all current and future activities by UN-Energy member organizations in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. The report seeks to further align and coordinate, in a more coherent manner, the different efforts supporting the Decade, the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development follow-up process and the post-2015 development agenda.

VI. Conclusions and the way forward

58. In signing on to Sustainable Development Goal 7, Member States have for the first time agreed on a universal goal on energy, with targets on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy and related means of implementation. During its first four years, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative has contributed to putting in place a global framework for implementation.

59. Yet the progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 is still uneven. Efforts will need to be redoubled to strengthen dialogues, scale up partnerships and action, catalyse investment and build capacity for implementation and monitoring.

60. At present, energy dialogues are highly fragmented, and there is no truly global dialogue platform that brings together all Member States and other stakeholders in an inclusive manner. Moving forward, therefore, Member States may wish to consider the best format and forum in which global energy ministers should meet, as an inclusive, global, high-level dialogue platform on energy to track progress and shape the global discourse on action towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7.

61. To support Member States in their implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7, the United Nations system will continue to strengthen coordination, coherence and synergies in the area of energy, including through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy, with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.